

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the drawings with the new drawings that are attached to this Amendment.

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and new drawings are attached to this Amendment. The plastic material is shown by alternating thick and thin lines. For this reason, it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 4-12 were objected to as being improper multiple dependent claims. These claims have been canceled and are no longer at issue.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Plymale et al. (Plymale) and claim 3/1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Plymale.

Reconsideration is requested in view of this Amendment.

Claims 1 to 12 have been canceled, and new claims 13 to 19 are being submitted in this Amendment.

New claim 13 is substantially a combination of previous claims 1, 2, 3 and 7. New claim 13 points out a composite vessel construction, which is patentably different from the vessel construction disclosed by Plymale because independent claim 13 and all of the claims which depend from claim 13, recite that the claimed vessel includes: (a) an inner body is made of polypropylene and an outer body is made of a rubber material; (b) an inner body having a main portion and a cover for covering the main portion; and (c) a plurality of holes which extend through the cover and allow the material forming the outer body to penetrate into said outer body, whereby said outer body also forms an inner portion of said cover.

Plymale discloses an inner body made of

polypropylene with an outer body which is not made of a rubber material. There is no mention or suggestion in Plymale that a cover is used in the Plymale construction. Finally, and most importantly, as a further inventive feature, the vessel construction defined by claim 13 has a plurality of holes which extend through the cover and allow the material forming the outer body to penetrate into said outer body, whereby said outer body also forms an inner portion of said cover. This feature was fully disclosed in the specification at page 5, lines 2-6 and in original claim 7. Plymale does not teach or suggest such a feature. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this single feature would be per se sufficient to patentably distinguish new claim 13 over the prior art documents.

New claim 14, which is based on original claim 4, recites the inventive feature that the main portion has a top outer edge portion comprising an annular outer ridge portion adapted to snap engage with a corresponding annular ridge portion formed on an inner surface of the cover, thereby providing a tight coupling as the cover is closed.

New claim 15, which is based on original claim 6, points out the further feature, which is neither taught nor suggested by Plymale, that the outer body comprises a substantially cylindrical outer crowned portion encompassing a side surface of the main portion, which is of substantially cylindrical configuration, and an outer portion applied to a top outer surface of the cover.

New claim 16, which substantially corresponds to previous claim 8, points out the further feature of the Applicant's vessel construction, wherein the

inner portion of the outer body provides, with said vessel construction in an open condition thereof, an exposed to the view surface cooperating with the top edge of the main portion of the inner body to seal said vessel as said vessel is closed.

New claim 17 further recites the inventive feature of Applicant's vessel construction that the hinge assembly comprises cut-out portions to facilitate said cover in performing opening and closing movements. This feature has been clearly disclosed in the specification at page 5, line 30 to page 5, line 4. and is neither taught or suggested by Plymale.

Finally, new claims 18 and 19, which depend both on new claim 17, discloses further inventive features of Applicant's hinge assembly which are neither taught, not suggested by the prior art documents. This subject matter is described in original claims 10 and 11.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejections over Plymale be withdrawn and not applied against the newly presented claims.

Claims 2 and 3/2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leboucher in view of Plymale.

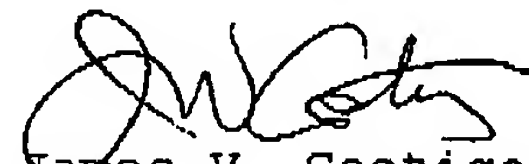
Reconsideration is requested.

The Leboucher patent discloses a vessel having an integrally formed hinged lid. However, this patent does not disclose or suggest the inclusion of an outer body which is molded to the vessel as pointed out in claim 13 and the claims that are dependent on claim 13. The Plymale reference has been distinguished from the newly presented claims above. It should be emphasized that the claimed vessel, as defined in

claim 13 and the claims that are dependent on claim 13, has (a) an inner body is made of polypropylene and an outer body is made of a rubber material; (b) an inner body having a main portion and a cover for covering the main portion; and (c) a plurality of holes which extend through the cover and allow the material forming the outer body to penetrate into said outer body, whereby said outer body also forms an inner portion of said cover. These elements are not disclosed or suggested by anything in Leboucher or Plymale. For these reason, it is requested that this ground of rejection not be applied to reject the newly presented claims.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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